

An Interview With:

COACH ANDY REID

COACH REID: Okay. We do have a couple of injuries. We need to talk about them. **Troy Vincent** went through practice this week and is healthy and should be fine for the game. N.D. **Kalu** today sprained his foot and missed about half the practice, should be fine, X-rays were negative -- he should be fine.

Q. How did N.D. get hurt?

COACH REID: Actually during warm-ups. Did some one-on-ones with him and nobody stepped on it or anything else. Just twisted it funny.

Q. Impact sprain from running?

COACH REID: He twisted it, yeah.

Q. Brandon's knee?

COACH REID: Brandon is fine, practiced today.

Q. Having been there two previous seasons, what little advantage or edge would you have going into Sunday's game as a result of that?

COACH REID: Well, every year in the National Football League is so different. I am not sure there's a great advantage having been there before but the one thing is you are in familiar territory, you have been through the process of the week and what you are exposed to during the week before a championship game. So I guess it's a small thing, but that's what you can take with you.

Q. You faced this team once in the regular season. The feeling in Charlotte seemed maybe they didn't give their best effort against you guys. What have you learned from them in the regular season compared to now, difference in their mentality?

COACH REID: They are playing very confident right now. I thought they were playing very confident when we went in there before and I think they are very good football team, and I think our team, our coaches and players we look forward to the challenge of playing them. It's always greatest against the best and they are the best right now.

Q. All the Eagle teams that you have had, any way that you can compare this team by giving it one capsule, one phrase to describe what this team really is compared to the others?

COACH REID: This group has been resilient. They have been tested a little bit, more maybe than the others as far as the number of people that have been lost and then starting out 0 and 2. They have played with big hearts throughout this year.

Q. Troy couldn't accelerate, couldn't open up; was he able to do that the last two days?

COACH REID: I think he feels good on that. He's able to run and burst and feels very comfortable with it.

Q. Do you anticipate N.D. being 100%?

COACH REID: I think so. By the time he got to the X-ray unit he was feeling better than when he initially started going there. We'll see how it goes tonight. I think he will be fine.

*Q. Talk about **Kris Jenkins** and the impact he has had on the defensive line?*

COACH REID: Well, he's obviously a great player and he's worked himself into being one of the best defensive tackles in the National Football League and talking about big explosive strong guys, so he will be a handful.

*Q. With **Stephen Davis'** game-time decision, what problems does that present in your preparation for two backs?*

COACH REID: The No. 1 thing you better prepare for a good back and they are both very good players. Maybe a little different, one is maybe a little bit more downhill than the other; one is shifty. But they are both top-notch backs. You better get into position to wrap up and finish tackles. You are not going to bring them down with a simple arm tackle, either one of them.

Q. Is there a difference in the receiving skills?

COACH REID: Well, they are both okay. They are both decent receivers. I think you know, they are both very good. I will leave it at that.

Q. Do you think the fact that a lot of people didn't give the Panthers a chance to be in this spot makes them more dangerous because they may be playing a little bit more loose?

COACH REID: I don't know that. I'd have

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to tell you after Sunday. I think both teams will be ready to go. I am sure Carolina will come in here very excited to play and it's a great environment for a football game. I know our fans will welcome them in (laughter).

Q. When a couple of years ago, when you were in St. Louis, do you think back to how you felt your team feeling, you know, crossing that road for the first time?

COACH REID: Yeah, well, it was obviously new territory and every step you took from this press conference, from the press conferences during the week, the number of people that were at them were all new experiences for the guys. Once the game gets going it is a little bit faster than a normal game. Each time you move up the ring in the Playoffs, the game gets a little bit faster, more intense. Those were all things that we need to get used to.

Q. Are you concerned having been there three times that your guys might feel extra pressure?

COACH REID: I don't think so. I think they will be fine. They will come out and play their hearts out and that's all you can ask for.

Q. Who took N.D.'s reps today?

COACH REID: Kind of a mixture of guys, Marco **Coleman** took a few in there. **Walker** moved out, took a few in there.

Q. There was a story in the paper today that you are promoting Marty as assistant head coach. Could you say what he brought to your staff this year and going forward what it might mean?

COACH REID: Marty has added another set of eyes to the staff and which I consider already a strong staff.

COACH REID: Marty did a nice job for us this year. He works very well for Brad and Brad does a great job as the offensive coordinator. Both Marty and I both were assistant coaches under Brad who was a coordinator at Northern Arizona; another good football teacher that we're able to retain on the staff.

*Q. You got 107 yards from **Donovan** rushing. You didn't get a whole lot of yards from the two running backs. Is that because the Packers played great defense or -- (inaudible)?*

COACH REID: To be honest with you, I really don't care who gets the 100 yards. I just care about the total number of yards and if we are moving the football or not. It really doesn't matter to me. **Donovan** happened to be the guy this past week and I am sure you'd have to ask Mike

Sherman about the other part of that. I thought our guys did a nice job of gaining yards, positive yards.

*Q. Other than **Donovan** being the obvious one, who do you think your play-makers are?*

COACH REID: I think they are all play-makers. Any time you can spread the ball to 8, 9, 10 different receivers a game that's doing a pretty good job. That's having a few play-makers.

Q. The mood of the team this year compared to the first two, they seem to be kind of maybe embracing this a little bit more; is that because of experience or personality?

COACH REID: I think the guys have been through it a couple of times. Obviously they didn't enjoy losing. So they are focused in and they like to come out on the long end of the stick.

*Q. You have had some contributions from free agents like **Hart** and **Rayburn**. Who gets the credit for finding those guys and what is your philosophy of getting players like that?*

COACH REID: Tom **Heckert** does a great job in our personnel department. He oversees the personnel, both college and pro, and, fellows, you are talking about Scott **Cohen** is in charge of the pro side of it. He and Tom have done an excellent job of bringing players in.

Q. The Panthers all week have been talking about the fact all week that if there's pressure in the game there's more pressure on the Eagles than them because you have been here three times. Have you addressed that with your team? Do you think there's any validity to that feeling?

COACH REID: I don't think so. I think both teams just want to get out there and play. I am sure the perception is that we are under pressure to go about business, but heck, I would say that you know, both teams are under the same pressure. You have reached this point here, I think both of you want to win and the important thing is that you go out and play your game and do it to the best of your abilities.

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